Sustaining Ecosystems Part 1

Use the data tables posted in Blackboard to help you answer these questions.

Terrestrial Models

1. Which container(s) had the highest growth rates for seedlings? Why?
2. List at least three abiotic factors that affect the growth of the plants in the terrestrial models.
3. In a natural ecosystem, what are the sources of the abiotic factors that you listed?
4. List 3 biotic factors found in your models.
5. In a natural ecosystem, what are the sources of the biotic factors that you listed?

Aquatic Plant Models

1. Which container ha dthe higher growth rate for the Elodea? Why?
2. List at least three abiotic factors that affect the growth of the Elodea in these models.
3. In a natural ecosystem, what are the sources of the abiotic factors that you listed?
4. List one biotic factor found in the models.
5. In a natural ecosystem, list three biotic factors that would influence the growth of Elodea.

Aquatic Animal Models

1. Which container had the greater change in ammonia? Which container had a greater change in pH? Explain.
2. List at least three abiotic factors that affect the animals in these models.
3. In a natural ecosystem, what are the sources of the abiotic factors that you listed?
4. Name a biotic factor that adversely affects the animals in these models. Then, describe how that factor is mediated in a natural ecosystem.

Decomposition Model

1. List at least two different biotic factors present in the model.
2. What would happen if either of these biotic factors were removed?
3. Why is decomposition an important feature of a functioning ecosystem?
4. List at two abiotic factors present in the model that may affect decomposition.
5. How do the abiotic factors that you listed affect decomposition?